Allotment of dealership to SC/ST/Physically Handicapped Persons

2120. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is being approached by All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped People upliftment on the issue of allotment of gas/petrol/kerosene oil agencies to SC/ST between 27th March, 2001 to 31st January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of action taken;

(c) the State-wise total backlog of gas/kerosene oil agencies/petrol pumps available for allotment to SC/ST and Physically Handicapped;

(d) since when, such backlog is available;

(e) the steps taken by Ministry to allot such agencies/pumps during the last four years; and

(f) by when backlog of allotment will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government have provided the reservation of 25% and 5% in favour of SC/ST and Physically Handicapped (PH) category respectively in the locations included in marketing plans approved prior to dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM).

(c) and (d) The total number of pending locations for allotment of LPG/SKO/RO dealerships in favour of SC/ST and PH categories under previous marketing plans as on 1.1.2003 is as under:—

	SC/ST	Physically Handicapped
LPG	414	100
SKO	46	12
RO	237	81

(e) and (f) The total allotments made in favour of SC/ST and PH category during the last four years is as under:—

	SC/ST	Physically Handicapped
LPG	617	123
SKO	68	14
RO	482	111

Diversion of LPG cylinders for commercial use

2121. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that LPG cylinders meant for domestic use on which high subsidy is given by Government, are being diverted for commercial use particularly by those selling cooked food in the metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) if so, what mechanism has been evolved by Government in collaboration with the respective State/Union Territory administrations to check this misuse;

(c) whether any surprise checks have been conducted in the metropolitan cities to apprehend those indulging in such misuse, during the last three years;

(d) if so, the results thereof, city-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are under strict instructions to ensure that domestic cylinders are not used for commercial purpose. To check the same, the field officers carry out periodic refill audits besides making surprise visit to the commercial premises. In the event of diversion, the distributors are penalised in accordance with Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000. The District Administration is also empowered to take the necessary action against erring distributors in terms of LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000.

(c) to (e) The details of surprise checks/refill audits carried out by OMCs/other state agencies against the distributors and action taken